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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7227

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,US,UR
SUBJECT: DETENTE WITH THE USSR

REF: DIA PUBLICATION "DETENTE IN SOVIET STRATEGY" DATED SEPT 2, 1975

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT A POLICY OF LIMITED ACCOMMODATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR REDUCTION OF TENSIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO ARMED CONFLICT, I.E. "DETENTE," CONSTITUTED THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE US GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THEREFORE WITH IN LITTLE INTEREST THAT WE READ THE DIA PUBLICATION "DETENTE IN SOVIET STRATEGY" DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 1975. WRITTEN IN TERMS OF THE SOVIET PERCEPTION OF DETENTE, THE STUDY AMOUNTS TO A SEVERE CRITICISM OF US DETENTE POLICY. IN VIEW OF THE STUDIES CRITICAL NATURE, WE WERE ESPECIALLY SURPRISED TO NOTE THAT THE PAPER WAS DISSEMINATED AS AN UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENT.

2. THE PAPER LISTS SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN ADHERING TO A DETENTE POLICY INCLUDING, "...THE NEED TO RATIONALIZE AND MODERNIZE THE SOVIET ECONOMY WITH LIBERAL INFUSIONS OF CREDIT, TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE FROM THE WEST" (PARA 9), AND, ON THE POLITICAL MILITARY FRONT, "...TO BRING ABOUT: (1)
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THE RECESSION OF RESIDUAL AMERICAN POWER AND INFLUENCE IN

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EUROPE AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH SOVIET DOMINANCE; (2) THE EROSION OF COHESION IN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE; (3) QUALITATIVE SUPERIORITY IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, NOW THAT THEY HAVE REACHED NUMERICAL PARITY; (4) THE INCREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THE DEFERENCE OF LOCAL COUNTRIES (SIC) TO SOVIET POWER; AND (5) THE ISOLATION OF CHINA IN THE WORLD." (PARA 14)

3. UNDER THE HEADING "THE SOVIET ASSESSMENT," THE PAPER NOTES "IN MOSCOW'S VIEW, DETENTE IS CLEARLY WORKING TO ITS ADVANTAGE" (PARA 25) AND " IN EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE FEW CONCESSIONS..." (PARA 26). THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT "INSOFAR AS DETENTE BRINGS GREATER ADVANTAGES TO THE SOVIETS...THIS POLICY WILL CONTINUE..." (PARA 32) "SO FAR, DETENTE HAS SERVED SOVIET PURPOSES WELL." (PARA33)

4. THIS EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY PURSUED A POLICY OF ENGOURAGING CONSTRUCTIVE DISSENT. THE PAPER IN QUESTION CONCERNS A MATTER OF VERY GREAT INTEREST TO THE US AND IS A SUBJECT WHICH SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY DEBATED. THE UNSTATED CONCLUSION OF THIS PAPER, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO BE THAT THE ARCHITECTS OF US DETENTE POLICY ARE AT BEST DUPES OF THE USSR. WE SUSPECT THAT THE DISSEMINATION OF
THESE IDEAS IN AN UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION (AND LIKELY THEREFORE TO BE AVAILABLE EVENTUALLY TO THE PRESS) BEARING ON ITS COVER BOTH THE SEALS OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MIGHT CAUSE SOME CONFUSION AMONG THE US PUBLIC AND OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES ABROAD AS TO JUST WHAT IS AMERICAN POLICY IN REGARD TO DETENTE AND WHERE AND BY WHOM THAT POLICY IS MADE.
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